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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Mikihide NAKAMARU et al.  
Title: REACTOR CORE AND METHOD  
FOR OPERATING NUCLEAR  
REACTOR  
Appl. No.: 09/978,308  
Filing Date: 10/17/2001  
Examiner: R. Palabrica  
Art Unit: 3641

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**REPLY**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 29, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Remarks** begin on page 2 of this document.